

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3803

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11751

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, XF, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EEC DISCUSSIONS OF PALESTINE ITEM IN UNGA

REF: ROME 12413 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. BRITISH TELL US PRESENTATIONS OF PLO CASE
HAVE BEEN MADE TO FRENCH AND BELGIANS AS WELL AS TO
ITALIANS, BUT NOT TO BRITISH. EEC POLITICAL DIRECTORS
HAVE AGREED APPROACH TO QUESTION SHOULD BE COORDINATED
AMONG EEC COUNTRIES AND DISCUSSED WITH USG. THERE WAS
SPECULATION AS TO WHAT PLO IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE AND TYPE
OF RESOLUTION PLO MAY BE SEEKING FROM UNGA. IN REPLY TO
BRITISH QUERIES, WE RESPONDED THAT DEPARTMENT IS TAKING
NO POSITION ON THIS QUESTION UNTIL IT GETS A CLEARER
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IDEA OF WHAT IS INVOLVED, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL

CONTACTS WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES AS FAR AS WE AWARE.
END SUMMARY.

1. WE CAUGHT FCO'S CRAIG (HEAD OF NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA DEPARTMENT) SHORTLY AFTER HE RETURNED FROM EEC TALKS MONDAY AND TUESDAY DURING WHICH PALESTINE ITEM FOR UNGA AGENDA WAS DISCUSSED. HE GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT.

2. PLO REPRESENTAIVES MADE CALL IN PARIS SEPTEMBER 9 SIMILAR TO THAT IN ROME SEPTEMBER 6 (REFTEL), LEAVING SAME PIECE OF PAPER (BUT THIS TIME IN FRENCH, NOT IN ARABIC AS WAS ROME'S). SIMILAR APPROACH MADE ON PALESTINIANS' BEHALF BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO GOB IN BRUSSELS. SOMEWHAT UNACCOUNTABLY (SAID CRAIG) NO APPROACH YET MADE IN LONDON.

3. PAPER PLO LEFT CONSISTED OF THREE INNOCUOUS PARAGRAPHS (A) REVIEWING WRONGS DONE TO PALESTINIANS, (B) REFERRING TO SYMPATHY SHOWN BY HOST GOVERNMENT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE, AND (C) ANNOUNCING DECISION TO INSCRIBE PALESTINE ITEM ON FORTHCOMING UNGA AGENDA. PLO REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT BY FRENCH ON MORE DETAILS AS TO CONTENT, PITCH, OR TIMING OF EFFORT.

4. GENERAL IMPRESSION AMONG ME EXPERTS AND EEC POLITICAL DIRECTORS IS THAT DETAILS OF PLO COURSE HAVE NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT REAL PLO OBJECTIVE IS TO GET OBSERVER OR DELEGATION STATUS IN NEW YORK. POLITICAL DIRECTORS AGREED THAT APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION MUST BE COORDINATED AMONG EEC MEMBERS AND (WONDER OF WONDERS) THAT QUESTION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE USG.

5. CRAIG'S OWN VIEW IS THAT PLO'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IS INSCRIPTION OF PALESTINE AS SEPARATE POLITICAL PROBLEM FROM QUESTION OF ME AS A WHOLE. HAVING ENCOUNTERED TOO MUCH RESISTANCE IN EARLIER EFFORTS TO GET RESOLUTION 242 REVISED, PLO HAS SWITCHED TO CURRENT APPROACH. ANY ENHANCED STATUS FOR PLO IN NEW YORK, OR IMPROVED CHANCES OF PLACE AT GENEVA TABLE, ARE SEEN AS POSSIBLE BY-
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PRODUCTS.

6. FROM WHAT CRAIG SAID, EEC SPECULATION WAS THAT PLO MAY TRY TO PUSH RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AN APPROACH WHICH THOSE PRESENT THOUGHT WOULD BE HARD TO RESIST. NEW (AND YOUTHFUL) POLITICAL DIRECTOR FROM IRELAND BROUGHT MEETING UP SHORT BY SUGGESTING THAT, IN SUCH CASE, ISRAEL

MIGHT REPLY ON ARTICLE 27 OF UN CHARTER PROHIBING
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER STATES.
MEETING CLOSED ON THAT IRRESOLUTE NOTE.

7. CRAIG THEN ASKED US WHAT USG ATTITUDE IS TOWARD IN-
SCRIPTION OF THIS ITEM AND WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY
CONTACT WITH PLO. WE REPLIED THAT FROM CABLE TRAFFIC WE
HAD SEEN DEPARTMENT WAS WAITING TO GET CLEARER IDEA OF
WHAT PLO AND ARAB STATES HAD IN MIND. THERE HAD BEEN
NO OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES AS FAR AS
WE WERE AWARE.
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